

5 What is claimed is:

1. An inverter buffer structure for a vehicle, comprising:

a buffer member disposed with an inverter in an engine compartment of the vehicle and provided between the inverter and a radiator core support that constitutes a portion of a frame of the vehicle.

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2. The inverter buffer structure of claim 1, further comprising a restraining means for restraining a lower surface of the buffer member in a front-to-rear direction of the vehicle.

15 3. The inverter buffer structure of claim 1, wherein the buffer member is supported by a bracket provided on the inverter itself.

4. The inverter buffer structure of claim 3, wherein the bracket is positioned higher than an upper surface of the radiator core support.

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5. The inverter buffer structure of claim 3 wherein a restraining means is provided to restrain a lower surface of the buffer member in a front-to-rear direction of the vehicle.

25 6. The inverter buffer structure of claim 3, wherein a prescribed space is provided between the buffer member and the inverter.

7. The inverter buffer structure of claim 6, wherein a restraining means is provided to restrain a lower surface of the buffer member in a front-to-rear direction of the vehicle.

- 5 8. The inverter buffer structure of claim 7, wherein the bracket is positioned higher than an upper surface of the radiator core support.
9. The inverter buffer structure of claim 1, wherein the buffer member acts to reduce an incoming force to the vehicle in the event of a collision.
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10. The inverter buffer structure of claim 1, wherein the inverter is located on a first side of the vehicle and an engine of the vehicle is located on a second side of the vehicle that is an opposite the first side.
- 15 11. The inverter buffer structure of claim 1, wherein the buffer member is a controller unit or an air intake part.
12. A method of protecting an inverter of a vehicle, comprising:
disposing a buffer member between the inverter and a radiator core support that
20 constitutes a portion of a frame of the vehicle.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein disposing the buffer member between the inverter and the radiator core support comprises connecting the buffer member to the inverter using a bracket.
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14. The method of claim 13, wherein disposing the buffer member between the inverter and the radiator core support comprises restraining a lower portion of the buffer member in a front-to-rear direction of the vehicle.

- 5 15. The method of claim 13, wherein connecting the buffer member to the inverter using the bracket comprises positioning the bracket higher than an upper surface of the radiator core support.
- 10 16. The method of claim 12, wherein disposing the buffer member between the inverter and the radiator core support comprises restraining a lower portion of the buffer member in a front-to-rear direction of the vehicle.
- 15 17. The method of claim 12, wherein disposing a buffer member between the inverter and the radiator core support comprises providing a prescribed space between the buffer member and the inverter.
18. The inverter buffer structure of claim 6, wherein the bracket is positioned higher than an upper surface of the radiator core support.